



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Health Providing Home Visits To Give H1N1 Vaccine to Homebound Residents

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health and North Dakota's local public health units are encouraging homebound residents to contact public health if they want to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

"We know there are residents who are physically unable to leave their homes or are unable to wait in line at a clinic or visit a doctor's office. We want to make sure those residents have access to H1N1 vaccine if they want it," said Molly Sander, Immunization Program manager for the North Dakota Department of Health.

Homebound residents who wish to be vaccinated can contact their local public health unit directly to arrange a home visit or can call the North Dakota Department of Health influenza hotline at 1.866.207.2880 for assistance.

As of Feb. 2, 2010, there have been 3,230 confirmed cases of influenza in the state, including 101 hospitalizations and three deaths. Last year at this time only 116 cases had been reported. Health officials want to remind everyone that even though there is not much flu activity in the state right now, influenza can be very unpredictable.

"Past pandemics have shown us that there can be multiple waves of illness," Sander said. "We don't know if we will see another wave of H1N1 influenza this year or not, so we really want high-risk people to take the opportunity now to get vaccinated in order to protect themselves and their families."

For more information, the media can contact Molly Sander at 701.328.2378.

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